

**What is claimed is:**

- 1           1. A method of etching an uniform silicon layer,  
2 comprising:  
3           providing a patterned silicon layer;  
4           forming an etching buffer layer conformally on  
5 the surface and the top layer of the patterned  
6 silicon layer; and  
7           etching the etching buffer layer and the patterned  
8 silicon layer until the thickness of the patterned silicon  
9 layer is reduced.
- 1           2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 etching buffer layer comprises silicon oxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ).
- 1           3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the  
2 etching buffer layer is formed by oxidation.
- 1           4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further  
2 comprising  $\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{SF}_6$ , or  $\text{HBr}$  used during etching.
- 1           5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 thickness of the etching buffer layer is about 5~20nm.
- 1           6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 thickness of the patterned silicon layer is about  
3 120~250nm.
- 1           7. A method of etching an uniform silicon layer,  
2 comprising:  
3           providing a silicon layer;  
4           forming a mask with patterns on the silicon  
5 layer;  
6           performing a first etching to pattern the silicon  
7 layer using the mask as a shield, to form a  
8 patterned silicon layer with patterns;

- 9 removing the mask;  
10 forming an etching buffer layer conformally on  
11 the surface and the top layer of the patterned  
12 silicon layer; and  
13 performing a second etching to remove the etching buffer  
14 layer and reduce the thickness of the patterned silicon  
15 layer.
- 1 8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the mask  
2 is a photoresist layer.
- 1 9. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the  
2 etching buffer layer comprises silicon oxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ).
- 1 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the  
2 etching buffer layer is formed by oxidation.
- 1 11. The method as claimed in claim 7, further  
2 comprising  $\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{SF}_6$ , or  $\text{HBr}$  used during etching.
- 1 12. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
2 thickness of the etching buffer layer is about 5-20nm.
- 1 13. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the  
2 thickness of the patterned silicon layer is about  
3 120-250nm.
- 1 14. A method of etching a silicon layer to avoid non-  
2 uniformity, comprising:  
3 providing a silicon layer;  
4 forming a mask with patterns on the silicon  
5 layer;  
6 performing a first etching to pattern the silicon  
7 layer using the mask as a shield, to form a  
8 patterned silicon layer with patterns;  
9 removing the mask;

10 introducing a gas containing oxygen treatment to  
11 conformally form an etching buffer layer on the  
12 surface and the top layer of the patterned silicon  
13 layer; and

14 performing a second etching to remove the etching buffer  
15 layer and reduce the thickness of the patterned silicon  
16 layer.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the  
2 mask is a photoresist layer.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 14, further  
2 comprising  $\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{SF}_6$ , or  $\text{HBr}$  used during etching.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the  
2 thickness of the etching buffer layer is about 5~20nm.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the  
2 thickness of the patterned silicon layer is about  
3 120~250nm.

1 19. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the gas  
2 comprises 90%~100% oxygen and 10~0% etching agent  
3 used in second etching.

1 20. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the gas  
2 containing oxygen treatment is performed at about 10~90°C.